

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 07062 151403Z

71

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /018 W

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R 151302Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8877

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 7062

FOR CU/WE AND CU/ARTS; USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL

SUBJECT: RADIO KUDOS FOR U.S. "OPENNESS"

REF: LISBON 6525

1. PORTUGUESE STATE RADIO, RADIODIFUSAO PORTUGUESA, IN 7:30 P.M. PROGRAM OF OCT 13, BROADCAST INTERVIEW WITH JACINTO RAMOS, PRODUCER OF PORTUGUESE VERSION OF EDWARD ALBEE'S "EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN". PRODUCTION OPENED IN LISBON OCT 8 TO VERY GOOD CRITICAL REVIEWS.

2. RADIO INTERVIEWER ASKED RAMOS IF INDEED THE PLAY WAS NOT CRITICAL OF SOME ASPECTS OF AMERICAN LIFE. RAMOS AGREED THAT THIS WAS SO, BUT POINTEDLY NOTED THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY'S CULTURAL ATTACHE (REFERENCE WAS TO CAO SALLY OPSTEIN) HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN PROVIDING BACKGROUND MATERIALS ON ALBEE AND IN SEEKING TO ARRANGE A VISIT (STILL UNCERTAIN) BY ALBEE TO PORTUGAL WHILE THE PLAY WAS ON STAGE. (REFTEL.) RAMOS SAID SUCH OPENNESS BY AMERICANS WAS A MARKED CONTRAST WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE CRITICAL AUTHORS AND PLAYWRIGHTS ARE SENT TO PSYCHIATRIC WARDS.

3. COMMENT: NOT ONLY ARE RAMOS' REMARKS JUST PRAISE FOR MS. OPSTEIN'S ASSISTANCE BUT THEY ARE ALSO AN INDICATION OF THE CHANGING TIMES. THIS IS THE FIRST AMERICAN STAGE-PLAY
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PAGE 02 LISBON 07062 151403Z

TO BE PRESENTED IN PORTUGAL IN PORTUGUESE IN TWO YEARS.

A YEAR AGO, RAMOS WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO USE
STATE RADIO MEDIUM TO COMMENT FAVORABLY ON THE U.S. AND
DENIGRATE, ALBEIT INDIRECTLY, THE USSR.
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Message Attributes

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